

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WAHSAW 3846

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: POLISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES

FROM AMBASSADOR

1. ON JULY 4, RYSZARD FRELEK, MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PZPR, SAID TO ME THAT THE POLES WERE THINKING OF ESTABLISHING A POLISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY IN WARSAW, HEADED PERHAPS BY PROF. JAN SZCZEPANSKI WITH THE LEADING POLISH WOMAN NOVELIST, MARIA KUNCEWICZ (AN AMERICAN CITIZEN), ON ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THE ORGANIZATION WOULD INCLUDE PROMINENT POLISH INTELLECTUALS, SCIENTISTS, INDUSTRIALISTS, AND BUSINESS LEADERS.

2. FRELEK SAID AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DISCUSS WITH THE DEPARTMENT THE ATTITUDE THE U.S. AUTHORITIES WOULD TAKE TOWARDS THE FORMATION OF A CORRESPONDING BODY IN THE U.S. THE POLISH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO HELP IN THE FINANCING OF SUCH A GROUP AND IT WOULD OF COURSE BE APPROPRIATELY

REGISTERED (I.E., UNDER THE FARA). HE HOPED THAT I WOULD SUPPORT THE IDEA.

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3. I SAID THAT, AS HE KNEW, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DID

NOT SPONSOR THE FORMATION OF SUCH BODIES. ADDITIONALLY, I SAID, I THOUGHT HE WOULD WANT TO CONSIDER THE EFFECT ON AMERICAN POLONIA IF THE POLISH GOVERNMENT WERE TO ENGAGE IN WHAT LOOKED TO THE POLISH-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS LIKE AN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH SOME ALTERNATIVE CENTER. THERE WOULD INEVITABLY BE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE OBJECTIVES THEY WERE PURSUING.

4. FRELEK SAID THEY WOULD HOPE TO ENLIST SUCH AMERICANS AS DAVID ROCKEFELLER AND PROFESSOR WILLIAM GRIFFITH OF MIT AS ORGANIZERS OF THE AMERICAN BODY, WHICH NEED NOT BE CALLED A "FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY", BUT COULD BE, E.G., A KOSCIUSZKO-PULASKI SOCIETY. I SAID THERE WERE ALREADY A KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION AND A PULASKI SOCIETY. HE HAD MENTIONED A LEADING AMERICAN CAPITALIST AND A LEADING AMERICAN PROFESSOR WHO WROTE CRITICALLY ABOUT EASTERN EUROPE. I WAS SURPRISED HE HAD NOT ALSO MENTIONED PROFESSOR BRZEZINSKI, WHO CONTINUES TO BE DESCRIBED IN COMMUNIST IDEOLOGICAL LITERATURE AS "A FANATICAL ANTI-COMMUNIST". FRELEK SAID THEY WERE NOT THINKING OF PROFESSOR BRZEZINSKI AS AN ORGANIZER. AGAIN, HE SAID HE HOPED I WOULD "GIVE GOOD ADVICE" WITH REGARD TO THIS IDEA.

5. I SAID I WAS SURE THE IDEA WOULD RECEIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT ALL THE CONSIDERATION IT MERITED, BUT THE BEST ADVICE I COULD GIVE HIM NOW WAS TO THINK VERY CAREFULLY ABOUT THE POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS BEFORE PURSUING THE IDEA.

6. RECOMMENDATION: WHEN AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI RAISES THE SUBJECT WITH THE DEPARTMENT, I THINK WE SHOULD CAUTION HIM ABOUT THE UNDOUBTEDLY NEGATIVE POSITION THAT WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE POLONIA TOWARDS SUCH AN ORGANIZATION AND TELL HIM THAT, AS A MATTER OF POLICY, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD BE UNABLE TO OFFER ANY ENDORSEMENT OR APPROVAL FOR SUCH AN ORGANIZATION. IF THE POLES ARE DETERMINED TO GO AHEAD (AND FRELEK GAVE EVERY INDICATION THAT THEY ARE) AND THE PROMINENT AMERICANS WHOM THEY APPROACH ASK THE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS

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VIEWS, I THINK WE SHOULD SAY THAT A US-POLISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, UNDER THE FULL CONTROL OF THE PARTICIPATING AMERICANS, COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE, BUT WE HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT A FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, WHATEVER SHEEP'S CLOTHING IT MIGHT WEAR BY WAY OF A NAME. FINALLY, OF COURSE, THE DECISION WHETHER TO BE INVOLVED IS ONE FOR EACH AMERICAN TO MAKE FOR HIMSELF.

7. AN ORGANIZATION OF THIS SORT IN WARSAW COULD BE
USEFUL TO US IN SOME RESPECTS--AT LEAST, THEORETICALLY.
IT COULD ALSO--AND MORE PROBABLY--BE A SERIOUS
CONSTRAINT. WE COULD FIND OURSELVES CONFRONTED WITH
THE NECESSITY OF CLEARING AND COORDINATING PLANNED
CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, LECTURES, FILM WEEKS,
EXHIBITS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH YET ANOTHER BODY,
THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF WHICH MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT
BE COOPERATIVE. FRELEK INDICATED THAT, IF THERE WERE
TO BE SUCH A BODY IN WARSAW, THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE
A COUNTERPART ORGANIZATION IN THE U.S. UNTIL WE ARE
ABLE TO GET A GOOD DEAL CLEARER PICTURE OF POLISH
OBJECTIVES, I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE
TOWARDS THIS PROPOSAL.
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